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getting stranded, started to walk home, "Crawford is making it pay well a hundred miles, usually sleeping out enough."

This was the last heard of a diaogne between different men, none of One afternoon while wending his whom John could see. He heard someway eastward along the coast he came thing fall and thought a bolt was shot, to a handsome country residence though he could not be sure of this, standing alone. Looking about him, he then all was silent again. He lay awake, thinking about what he had could not see another house, though the coast was open in either direction for several miles. But Johnny doubted heard, but couldn't make out anything except that the basement was used for if he could get any comfort in the the storage of goods. Were they stolen place, for he could see no evidence of articles? Were they barrels of liquor its being occupied. The shutters were manufactured illegally? The reason closed, not one being left open. Then, too, there was an old look about the for the house remaining in its present condition was apparent. This man Crawford was keeping it for a pur-pose. It had doubtless long been shut house. The shingles on the roof were black and crumpled, the woodwork in places was rotten, and only the brick of which the house was mainly built up and was not an object of curiosity. l'urning these things over in his mind, John fell asleep again. "If I could get inside." said John to

When he awoke in the morning the himself, "I could at least keep warm, sun was shining in through a broken and the night promises to be cold." olind. John arose from his couch and He had on only the thinnest clothing looked about him. He was in a library. and shivered as a chill November wind struck him. Climbing the fence-the Books were on the shelves, but they were dusty and dingy. He went gate was fastened with a rusty chain through a door into a pantry and and padlock-he went up on to the

porch and began to look about him for through the pantry into the dining a means of entrance. He was not long room. He opened some cupboard doors in a vain hope of finding something to in finding a shutter with a loose fastening and a pane of broken glass behind it. Putting his hand inside, he unlockeat. There was not a crust, and not a crust had been there for years. He went to the stairs leading down into the cellar, but the door separating the To his surprise, the room into which cellar and main floor was fastened. He tried to kick it open, but failed to he looked was furnished. True, there was a moldy look about the furniture

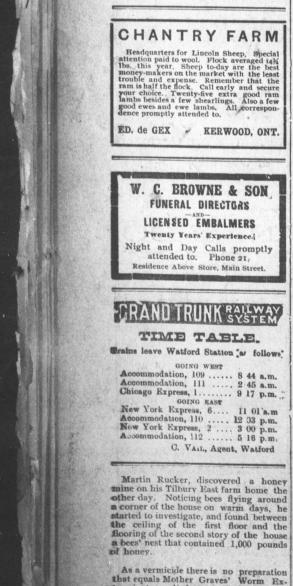
make any impression on it. Leaving the house by the window through which he had entered, he but it was of a fine quality, though old fashioned. John climbed over the window sill and inspected the furnishings at closer range. He was in the draw-ing room among damask covered chairs looked about the brickwork below the first floor. There were but two small and sofas and velvet curtains to the windows, over both of which boards had been placed on the inside. There windows. A plano stood at one end. and John struck the keys. He was was not a crack through which he startled at the breaking of the stillcould look within.

ness. It seemed to him that the shades of those who had once inhabited this house, who had years ago locked How were the goods taken in? There were no marks of wheels on the entrance road. Indeed, the grass grew and left it, had cried out at his inon it as well as on the lawn. The chain and lock on the gate gave no evidence of having been moved in a John fell to wondering why so much valuable property was left to rot. long while. Toward the ocean a distance of several hundred yards there Though young, he considered the financial feature connected with it. Had were no tracks of any kind. There the property been sold years before it was no opening from the cellar except would have brought what to him would within the house. This matter of the storage of goods was a mystery. have been a fortune. There must be some reason why it had been suffered

John walked out to the rocks which formed the shore. Here he was more at home, for he had been brought up







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night in so grewsome a place, and had it not been for the cold without he would have preferred to sleep under the stars. As it was, he looked about for a bed and, though he was hungry, finally got on to one of the couches upstairs. But it seemed to him that he was lying among worms. He took hold of a coverlet to draw it over him, and it parted through decay. This was too much for him; he arose and felt his way downstairs and, finding a lounge covered with leather, though it was

stiff through age, stretched himself on it and fell asleep. He was awakened during the night

by voices. For a few moments he could not recall where he was. Then he listened for the direction of the sound and concluded that it came from under him. Presently a light flashed through a crack in the floor. Sliding off the lounge, he crawled to the crack and put his ear to it.

"We've got to run in some o' these goods," said one in a man's voice. "This cellar is full." "Why not store the next lot above?" "What rot! Don't you know we've taken every pains to keep any one from looking in here? Put goods on the floor above, and some boy or some

tramp will look in, see them and report the fact." "It's a wonder no one has got on to

us as it is," remarked a third man. "They've gone around this depot often. Fact is, it's well known that Crawford owns it, and Crawford is above suspicion."

"We pay him enough rent for it." "Rent be hanged! He's one of us." "He tells me the place can't remain much longer as it is. A number of real estate men have been to him to buy it. They want to fix it up and make it

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near the water. Naturally his eyes fell upon the irregularity that marked the shore. There were many protuber-ances, many indentations. He descended to the sea level and, the tide being at the ebb, noticed a place where the water washed in under the rocks. John wondered how far in it extended. He couldn't tell without going in under the rock, and this was impossible without a boat or a raft unless he swam, and the water was too cold for

without a boat or a raft unless he swam, and the water was too cold for swimming. The böy pondered on what he should do. Should he go on home or remain and try to solve the mystery? Curiosity held him. He would go back to the swimming. do. Should he go on home or remain and try to solve the mystery? Curiosity held him. He would go back to the house and see if he could not look into the cellar through the crack at which he had listened. He did so, but the cellar was too dark for him to see anything. His mind reverted to the overhanging rock, and he went back to have another look at it. The rising overhanging rock. and he went back to have another look at it. The rising tide had partly covered the place, and he knew that it would be nearly

twelve hours before the water would give him an opportunity to examine it again. He resolved to improve the interval

by securing a boat or building a raft to use in his investigations. Going to a wood near by, he saw plenty of fallen timber, and after walking several miles to a house where he was given some breakfast he returned and carried sufficient wood to the shore to make a float. He laced the pieces together with twigs and when the tide subsided in the afternoon put his raft into the water and paddled to the rock in question. Lying flat, he pulled himself in under the land some twenty

feet, when he came to an iron door. It was fastened with an iron latch, which, being covered by water at every tide, was so rusty that he could not move it. He scuttled out, got a stone, returned and by hammering opened the door. There before him lay

a subterranean passage leading in the direction of the house. Not having a light, the young discov

erer did not attempt to investigate any further. Besides, he had no mind to be caught in a trap by an incoming tide. He got out as quickly as possible

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A disastrons fire occurred in the village of Mt. Brydges Wednesday of last week, when the fine brick block owned by a joint stock company and occupied by the Union Bank and Walter Snelgrove, gen-eral merchant, was completely destroyed. The fire was discovered about 8 o'clock and had gained such headway that very little of the contents were saved.

The Glencoe Fruit Growers' Association received on an average of \$1.53 per barrel for apples and about 1000 barrels were sold, 500 of which were No. 3s. The members were all well pleased with the results the results

Alvinston Presbyterians will hold services in Code's Hall until a new church is built.

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